



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q68736

Hironobu ISHIKAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/090,267

Group Art Unit: 2652

Confirmation No.: 6535

Examiner: David Donald Davis

Filed: March 7, 2002

For: CERAMIC DYNAMIC-PRESSURE BEARING AND HARD DISK DRIVE USING THE SAME

2652  
4/21/04 RECEIVED  
APR 23 2004

Technology Center 2600

### RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the outstanding Election of Species Requirement dated March 24, 2004, Applicants elect Fig. 8(d)(4) - Species IV for prosecution, without traverse. The elected Species is described at paragraph [113] - at least either one of the two thrust dynamic-pressure gap definition surfaces of the bearing member is crowned such that an inner circumferential portion thereof projects by an amount greater than  $0 \mu\text{m}$  and not greater than  $2.5 \mu\text{m}$  with respect to an outer most circumferential portion thereof. Claims 1-32, 34-38 and 40 read thereon.

Early favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 21, 2004